Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /057 W
----------127064 080526Z /13
O 080435Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1143

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3731

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, HO
SUBJ: REMOVAL OF CHIEF OF STATE

1. I HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY THREE COLONEL DELEGATION FROM SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL THAT GENERAL MELGAR'S RESIGNATION AS CHIEF OF STATE IS BEING ANNOUNCED TONIGHT.

2. JUNTA COMPOSED OF ARMED FORCES COMMANDER POLICARPO PAZ GARCIA, AIR FORCE COMMANDER LIEUTENANT COLONEL DOMINGO ALVAREZ AND NEW POLICE COMMANDER (FUSEP) LIEUTENANT COLONEL AMILCAR ZELAYA WILL TAKE OVER.

3. SDC DELEGATION OF LIEUTENANT COLONELS TORRES ARIAS (G-2), LTC BUESO (OF OFFICER'S SCHOOL), LTC BONILLA (OF LOGISTICAL CENTER) STRESSED THAT ONLY A MAN AND NOT POLICIES ARE CHANGED. THE WERE INSISTENT THAT ARMED FORCES ACTED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. SDC DELEGATION SAID THAT ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AS STIP-ULATED, AND WILL BE "CLEAN AND HONEST". THEY REITERATED THAT GOH POLICIES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

5. I WAS HANDED COPY OF SDC COMMUNIQUE WHICH STATES THAT PRESS LIBERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE RESPECTED.

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6. WHEN ASKED WHY CHANGE IS TAKING PLACE, SDC DELGATION EXPRES-SED DISSATISFACTION WITH MELGAR'S RESPECT FOR SDC POLICIES, IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND SOCIAL DECOMPOSITION. THEY ALSO MENTIONED CENTRAL AMERICAN CONTEXT WITHOUT OFFERING DETAILS.

7. I WAS TOLD THAT A NUMBER OF MINISTERS AND AGENCY HEADS WOULD

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PROBABLY RESIGN.

8. I INFORMED DELEGATION THAT USG WOULD BE SURPRISED GREATLY BY THIS DEVELOPMENT, WHICH I WOULD REPORT PROMPTLY TO MY GOVERNMENT. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THEIR PRESENTATION THAT SDC KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE WILL BE TO USG. I ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT ELECTIONS, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY STATED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE RESPECTED.

9. GENERAL MELGAR IS REPORTEDLY ACCEPTING SDC'S DECISION QUIETLY. RADIO ANNOUNCED CHANGE AT 9:30 PM TONIGHT. NO SERIOUS RESISTANCE TO CHANGE IS ANTICIPATED. CITY IS QUIET. WILL REPORT MORE FULLY TOMORROW.
JARAMILLO

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Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1799810
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REMOVAL OF CHIEF OF STATE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, HO, STATE
To: STATE
Type: TE
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